

“You Can Be Safe at Home”

If you have ended an abusive relationship, the Secretary of State's SAFE AT HOME confidential address program can help keep your former partner from finding you.

What is “Safe at Home?”

- SAFE AT HOME is a no-cost mail forwarding service designed to help victims of domestic violence keep their new addresses confidential.
- SAFE AT HOME offers abuse victims another layer of protection by providing a substitute mailing address to use whenever their home, work or school address is required.
- SAFE AT HOME allows state and local agencies throughout California to coordinate with the Secretary of State to protect the addresses of victims of domestic violence. While these agencies may respond to requests for public record information, they will not disclose the actual whereabouts of victims enrolled in the program.
- Established by legislation in 1998, SAFE AT HOME allows an adult or the guardian of a minor or incapacitated person to designate the Secretary of State as his or her agent for service of process and mail receipt. The Secretary of State's office then accepts and forwards legal documents, first-class and certified mail, and mail from government agencies to the participant's new address, which is kept strictly confidential.



A project of the California Secretary of State
P.O. Box 846 • Sacramento, CA 95812

For more information,
call toll-free **1-877-322-5227**
or visit **www.ss.ca.gov/safeathome/**

*“You don’t have
to be afraid.”*



How Does Safe at Home Work?

- After completing the application process, participants are enrolled in the SAFE AT HOME program and certified by the Secretary of State.
- Each participant receives an official authorization ID card containing a substitute address for use in business or public transactions requiring a residence or mailing address. State and local agencies are required to accept the SAFE AT HOME address when the participant presents his or her authorization card.
- When first class, government, served or certified mail is delivered to the participant's SAFE AT HOME address, it is forwarded to their confidential address within 48 hours. Magazines, catalogs, newspapers, junk mail and parcel package cannot be forwarded.
- The SAFE AT HOME Confidential Address Program is not a witness protection program. It is simply a mail forwarding service offered as a precautionary measure for use with the victim's overall health and safety plan.

Where Can I Sign Up for Safe at Home?

- Victims of domestic violence can apply for the Confidential Address Program SAFE AT HOME only at a designated domestic violence or victims assistance program facility in California. To locate the facility nearest you, please call toll free **1-877-322-5227**.

Voter Registration and Voting

Program participants can have their voter registration information kept entirely confidential from campaigns, pollsters and the media by completing a confidential voter registration affidavit at the time of enrollment for the first time or re-registering at the Registrar or Voters/County Clerks offices. Once registered, SAFE AT HOME participants automatically receive "absent voter status" so they can vote by mail. Absent voter privileges are revoked once the participant's four-year term expires or is cancelled.

Marriage License Protection

To protect their confidentiality, program participants can present their SAFE AT HOME authorization ID card to the county clerk/recorder when requesting a marriage license application form. Confidential address protection is also granted upon request when a SAFE AT HOME participant initiates other new vital record activity. Previously filed birth, death and marriage records are not protected and remain public.

Suspension or Cancellation

Program certification and authorization ID card privileges can be suspended or cancelled if any of the following occur:

- Mail forwarded to confidential address is returned to Secretary of State as "undeliverable."
- Participant supplies false information on application form.
- Participant falsely states that disclosure of a residence address will endanger his/her safety or that of his/her children, a minor, or incapacitated person.
- Participant enrolls in Confidential Address Program to avoid apprehension by law enforcement.
- Participant obtains a legal name that is different from the name listed on his/her application form without notifying the Secretary of State.
- Participant changes his/her residence address without notifying the Secretary of State at least seven days ahead of time.
- Participant's certification term has expired and he/she has not completed a renewal form.

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